

SARL NEWS 1999 AUGUST 29

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE SARL NEWS SUNDAY 1999 AUGUST 29

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL transmitting Amateur Radio News , a service from the South African Radio League for the interest of all Radio Amateurs, Short-wave Listeners and Electronic Enthusiasts. For a complete list of broadcast times and frequencies please send a SASE to Amateur Radio News, SARL, P O Box 1721 Strubensvallei 1735. This bulletin is also available on the SARL's web pages hosted by Intekom at www.sarl.org.za.

NEWS HEADLINES:

You are tuned to ZS6SRL, the news in detail next.

- HAM RADIO PROVIDING POST-EARTHQUAKE COMMUNICATION LINKS IN TURKEY
- MIR COSMONAUTS LEFT MIR, PERHAPS FOR GOOD.
- SUNSAT TO OPERATE IN MODE J THIS SUNDAY, THAT IS 2M UP AND 70CM DOWN.

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AMATEUR RADIO OPERATION FROM MIR CEASED AS COMONAUTS LEFT THE STATION, PERHAPS FOR GOOD.

Amateur Radio operation from Mir ceased as the Cosmonauts returned to earth. The final full-time crew of Russia's Mir space station landed safely in a deserted part of Kazakstan today, after bidding farewell to the rusty, leaky, 13-year-old orbiter that will be abandoned next year.

"With grief in our soul we're abandoning a piece of Russia, abandoning something we constructed in space, and it's unclear what we'll build next," Crew commander Viktor Afanasyev said in a televised communications session from the Mir late Friday. Moments later, cosmonaut Sergei Avdeyev and French astronaut Jean-Paul Haignere climbed from the Mir's main module into a cramped Soyuz escape capsule and heaved the hatch shut. The Soyuz then smoothly detached from the Mir and headed for Earth.

Doctors, colleagues and Haignere's astronaut wife met the crew when they landed, said Valery Lyndin, spokesman at Mission Control north of Moscow. They hit the ground smoothly about 660 miles north-west of Almaty, Kazakstan, and were being flown to the cosmonaut training centre near Moscow.

Mission Control will soon switch off most of the Mir's systems, including the central computer that keeps the station's solar panels facing the sun. Next spring, Mir is scheduled to leave outer space, frying up in the atmosphere and scattering some remnants in the Pacific Ocean.

For Amateur Radio it is also an end of an era and the beginning of a new one. Soon the International Space Station will take over amateur communication where Mir left off. .

SOUTH AFRICAN WINS 13CM EME CONTEST

Ivo Chladek ZS6AXT won the 13cm section of the DUBUS/REF EME contest, he also took all the Southern Hemisphere awards. Congratulations Ivo.

Ivo Chladek presents the weekly VHF and EME report on Amateur Radio Mirror International. If you into VHF or EME , tune in on Sundays at 08:00 UTC on 9750 or 21503 kHz. The programme is repeated on Mondays at 18:00 UTC on 3215 kHz.

SARL ON-THE-AIR INDABA TO DISCUSS THE RAE

The SARL on-the-air Indaba scheduled for today, Sunday 29 August at 20:00 SAST will discuss all aspects of the Radio Amateur Examination, from teaching to writing the examination including appointment of invigilators and Morse examiners and moderators. The guest speaker will be Rassie Erasmus who is the Councillor responsible for RAE. The host will be Laurie Devereux ZS5DL.

Radio Clubs which have not booked to be connected to the teleconference network should call Laurie ZS5DL before noon today on 031 709-1598.

HAM RADIO PROVIDING POST-EARTHQUAKE COMMUNICATION LINKS

Within the first hour of the devastating earthquake August 17 in Turkey, members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service organised by TRAC, the Turkish Amateur Radio Society, began providing emergency communication. "The first three days following the quake all communication needs were met by radio amateurs," TRAC Secretary Yuksel Hak, TA1BY, reported this week. Hak said telephone and other communication networks had collapsed, either due to power failures or from too much traffic.

The quake in Western Turkey lasted 48 seconds and measured 7.4 on the Richter scale. The death toll to date is 13,000, but it's expected to rise much higher. The earthquake affected a very large area involving several provinces and towns.

Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit told CNN that rescue and recovery efforts were hampered by lost communications and limited transportation. "Telecommunications were completely cut off for at least two days in the three provinces which are badly hit," the prime minister said.

Hak said local ARES branches in provinces in the disaster area used both HF and VHF to provide or assist with continuous communication between local crisis desks and the capital city of Ankara. TRAC's Hakan Guner, TA2LJ, said hams used HF mobiles during the initial response, then established local communication by setting up a few VHF repeaters. Guner also cited an urgent

need for additional equipment, especially VHF and UHF hand-helds and mobile gear.

Hak said the common frequencies used by ham radio also helped to tie together the incompatible radio systems used by various governmental organisations. “TV networks, daily newspapers and magazines all appreciated the support given by the hams,” he said. “This proved the important role of Amateur Radio service in case of disasters.”

In the US, the Salvation Army’s SATERN is continuing its Amateur Radio efforts to assist in the wake of the earthquake disaster, despite poor propagation to that part of the world and a lack of Turkish stations. The Salvation Army says the SATERN net will continue daily at 1400 UTC on 14.265 MHz in conjunction with various efforts via the Internet.

GOOD CONDITIONS FORECAST FOR THIS WEEK

For the period 27 August to 4 September solar activity will be low to High. Flux levels will continue to be in the 200’s, decreasing later. The chances of major flares are good. There is also a slight chance of a Proton event. Geo-magnetic conditions will remain quiet to active. Dwight West ZS6NT predicts fairly good conditions this week.

Last week solar activity was low to Moderate. The flux at the end of the forecast period was 222. The A-index ranged between 8 and 22. Geo-magnetic conditions were quiet to Minor storm conditions. This resulted in variable to good conditions..

SUNSAT IN A DIFFERENT MODE TODAY

Today Sunday, 29 August, SUNSAT will operate in the mode J. This follows requests from many Amateurs taking part in the recent INTECNET2000.

The frequencies are as follows:

Uplink: 145,950 MHz Downlink 436,250 MHz.

The operating times for Southern Africa are:

10:01 to 10:16 UTC. The pass will cover areas far north of the South African borders. Stations in other parts of Africa are urged to listen for SUNSAT and make a contact.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

When renewing your membership of the SARL, we request that those depositing directly into the SARL bank account please complete the FROM section at the bottom of the deposit slip. This section requires your name and telephone number, together with your call sign in the “reference number” field. This assists the SARL to record the deposit to the correct member. As the bank does not always capture this detail, we also request that you please either fax

or post a copy of the deposit slip, together with your completed renewal form, to the SARL.

Several members have informed the SARL that they have not received the June Radio ZS and the renewal account. Please contact the office so that a duplicate account can be sent. The August Edition of Radio ZS will soon be ready for mailing and will include the competition form that was to have been mailed in early June. The number is 011 675-2393

The SARL regrets all the inconveniences, which were largely outside our control. Corrective steps have been taken.

DIARY OF ACTIVITY

The SARL HF CW contest will be held today August 29 from 15:00 - 18:00. Full details are available on the SARLweb at www.sarl.org.za

SAATI will meet on Monday August 30, 1999 at 19:30 for 20:00. The meeting is in the Lyttleton Library situated in Cantonments road Lyttleton. It is in the form of a workshop and discussions. So bring along your faulty modems and questions, the experts will be there to assist.

The Highveld Amateur Radio Club will be holding its AGM on Saturday 4 September 1999. The venue is at the Germiston Methodist Church, Lady Duncan Street, Germiston. 14:00 for 14:30. All members are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For more information call ZS6BFL at (011) 893-1291

The Welkom Radio Klub meets again on Tuesday September 7 at 18:30 for 19:00 at the Clubhouse on the corner of Arrarat road and the old Welkom no3 shaft road. The main agenda item is a demonstration of a SWR meter and details of a kit will be discussed.

The OTL RADIOKLUB will hold their AGM on Saturday 18 September in the Belfast area. The meeting will be preceded by a bring and braai at 12:00 noon with the AGM starting at 14:00. Contact ZS6CJS or ZS6BHC on 145.500 or on 145.325 when in range for further directions

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club will be holding its usual spring flea market and bootsale on Saturday, 25 September starting at 08:30 in the parking area near the clubhouse on the south campus of the University of Pretoria. For further information and booking of tables, please contact Hans ZS6KR at 012 333 2612 or hans@smartnet.co.za.

Radio Clubs are invited to supply information for inclusion in the Diary of events. Information must reach the SARL News Service by not later than two weeks before the event. Information may be faxed to 031 765-6456 or by Email to: sarlnews@intekom.co.za. Please note the correct Email address.

The South African Radio League provides this bulletin of news as a service to Radio Amateurs and interested listeners on the African Continent. Join us on

Sundays at 12:00 for the President's Net on 7082 kHz. This bulletin was written by ZS5AKV and read by ..

News in this bulletin was provided by the SARL News Service, Amateur Radio Clubs in South Africa, Amateur Radio Online and the ARRL .

Every Sunday you are invited to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International. The programme is on the air on Sundays at 10:00 SAST on 9750 and 21530 kHz and repeated on Mondays at 20:00 SAST on 3215 kHz. Sentechn, the common carrier for broadcasting signals in South Africa and Telkom who provides the transmission lines, sponsor these transmissions. The following VHF frequencies are also activated from the Sentechn Meyerton Transmitter site: 145,375 for the Northern Free State and Vaal triangle areas and 145,400 covering the greater Johannesburg area. In the greater Durban area there is a relay on 145,650 MHz.

ends - ZS5AKV.